

## Message Text

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16/63

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 CAB-02

DOT-00 FAA-00 ACDA-05 FEA-01 SAM-01 /092 W

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R 241605Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 958

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 2722

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 12801

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SECTION 1 OF 2 VICE SECTION 2 OF 2)

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

SUMMARY: FRENCH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES' THREE-DAY (OCT 19-21) VISIT TO LEBANON WAS MARKED BY DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF LEBANON'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND EEC, AS WELL AS BY WELL-PUBLICIZED, TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH PLO LEADER YASIR 'ARAFAT, IN WHICH SAUVAGNARGUES EMPHASIZED FRENCH SUPPORT FOR PEACEFUL ME SETTLEMENT BASED ON SC RES 242 AND PREACHED "MODERATION" TO PALESTINIANS. FOLLOWING WERE HIGHLIGHTS OF VISIT. END SUMMARY

1. FRANCO-LEBANESE RELATIONS: SAUVAGNARGUES REPEATEDLY  
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PROCLAIMED, BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY, GOF'S CON-

TINUING CONCERN FOR MAINTENANCE OF LEBANON'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. IN ADDITION, IN HIS TALKS WITH GOL OFFICIALS HE INDICATED FRANCE'S DESIRE TO REINFORCEFRANCO-LEBANESE TIES THROUGH CONTINUED ASSIS- TANCE TO LEBANESE INSTITUTIONS IN HEALTH, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL FIELDS AND BY MAINTAINING FRENCH COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL PARTICIPATION IN CERTAIN MAJOR PROJECTS HERE (E.G., EXPANSION OF BEIRUT AIRPORT AND RENEWAL OF FRENCH FIRM'S MANAGERIAL CONTRACT AT LOCAL TELEVISION STATION).

2. LEBANESE-EEC RELATIONS: GOL ASKED FOR FRENCH SUP- PORT IN OBTAINING AGREEMENT WITH EEC THAT WOULD ASSOCIATE LEBANON MORE CLOSELY WITH COMMUNITY. (WE GATHER THAT GOL IS INTENT ON GAINING TREATMENT MORE FAVORABLE THAN THAT ACCORDED BY EEC TO ISRAEL.) SAUVAGNARGUES PROMISED THAT GOF, IN ITS CURRENT CAPACITY AS PRESIDING GOVT IN EEC, WOULD WORK TO ENSURE THAT LEBANESE INTERESTS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND HE CALLED ON GOL, IN ITS CURRENT CAPACITY AS PRESIDING GOVT IN ARAB LEAGUE, TO ASSIST IN ENSURING REINFORCED TIES AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BE- TWEEN COMMUNITY AND ARAB WORLD. FRANCE, HE SAID, STOOD READY TO COOPERATE IN ESTABLISHING "NEW ORGANS" THAT WILL INJECT "NEW VIGOR" INTO EEC-ARAB POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

3. FRANCO-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS: FROM MOMENT OF HIS ARRIVAL HERE OCT. 19, SAUVAGNARGUES REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED TO HIS LOCAL AUDIENCE FRANCE'S PREOCCUPATION WITH PALESTINIAN INTERESTS AND NEED TO ENSURE "MODERATION" ON PART OF PLO LEADERSHIP. "WE BELIEVE PALESTINIAN QUES- TION OUGHT TO BE CENTRAL TO ANY ME PEACE SETTLEMENT AND MUST BE AN ELEMENT IN SUCH SETTLEMENT", HE SAID, ADDING: "THEREFORE, WE MUST LISTEN TO THE PALESTINIANS AND TO PALESTINIAN LEADERS WHO SYMBOLIZE PALESTINIAN ASPIRATIONS. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, 'ARAFAT IS A MODERATE WHO SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWING A COURSE WE HOPE WILL BE CONSTRUCTIVE". FOR THIS REASON, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID, HIS MEETING WITH 'ARAFAT WAS "INEVITABLE". AT SAME TIME, HE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED GOF'S SUPPORT FOR "A PEACEFUL ME SETTLEMENT BASED ON LAW AND MUTUAL RESPECT, IN WHICH EACH STATE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE AREA COULD LIVE IN SECURITY AND DIGNITY".

4. IN HIS TALKS WITH LEBANESE FONMIN NAFFA, SAUVAGNARGUES REPORTEDLY MADE CLEAR THAT GOF SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE GOES BEYOND ITS OCT. 14 VOTE IN UNGA. ONLY REASONABLE SOLUTION OF PALESTINE QUESTION IN GOF VIEW, HE ALLEGEDLY TOLD NAFFA, "CONSISTS OF RECOGNIZING RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT AND INTER-

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED NATIONAL AUTHORITY" ON PALESTINIAN SOIL. IN THIS SENSE, HE SAID, FRANCE'S POSITION WAS NOT FAR REMOVED FROM PLO THESES ADOPTED AT LAST JUNE'S PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS IN CAIRO.

5. IN SAUVAGNARGUES OCT. 21 MEETING WITH 'ARAFAT, WHICH WAS PUNCTUATED BY UNUSUALLY LOUD SONIC BOOMS CREATED BY OVERFLYING IAF PHANTOMS, DISCUSSION REPORTEDLY REVOLVED AROUND STATE OF ME SETTLEMENT EFFORT, POSSIBLE CONTENTS OF RESOLUTION TO EMERGE FROM UPCOMING UNGA DEBATE, QUESTION OF OPENING PLO OFFICE AT PARIS, AND PROSPECT OF FRENCH ASSISTANCE IN REINFORCING "EUROPEAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS". WHILE 'ARAFAT APPARENTLY DID NOT PRESS OVERLY HARD FOR IMMEDIATE FRENCH AGREEMENT ON OPENING OF PLO OFFICE, HE EVIDENTLY MADE KNOWN HIS SUSPICION OF AND UNHAPPINESS OVER WHAT HE SAW AS US EFFORTS TO ARRIVE AT ME SETTLEMENT THROUGH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EACH NEIGHBORING ARAB STATE. DISPLAYING HIS WELL-KNOWN PARANOIA ON SUBJECT OF KING HUSSEIN, 'ARAFAT EMPHASIZED TO SAUVAGNARGUES THAT PLO WILL REJECT ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH IS BASED ON SUCH AGREEMENTS OR WHICH PLACES JORDANIAN GOVT ON EQUAL FOOTING PLO. SAUVAGNARGUES, IN RETURN, IS SAID TO HAVE COUNSELED 'ARAFAT NOT TO DEMAND "EVERYTHING ALL AT ONCE", POINTING OUT THAT MANY OF PLO'S FEARS AND SUSPICIONS CAN BE IRONED OUT AT GENEVA. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT FUTURE FRENCH SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE WILL BE DETERMINED BY DEGREE TO WHICH PLO DISPLAYS MODERATION AND ADVISED 'ARAFAT TO ESCHEW--FOR TIME BEING AT LEAST--ACTION ON MILITARY LEVEL IN FAVOR OF ACTIVITY IN POLITICO-DIPLOMATIC ARENA. HE ALSO URGED FEDAYEEN TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTIVITY THAT COULD BRING ISRAELI RETALIATION AGAINST LEBANON, NOTING THAT SUCH FORBEARANCE WOULD PAY

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ADDITIONAL DIVIDENDS BY WAY OF GREATER FRENCH SUPPORT FOR PLO ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

6. AT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH 'ARAFAT, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID HE HAD COME AWAY FROM MEETING FAVORABLY IMPRESSED. HE DESCRIBED 'ARAFAT AS "A MODERATE LEADER WHO HEADS A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT AND IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE OF A STATESMAN EVERY DAY". HE REEMPHASIZED THAT ONE OF GOF'S MAIN PREOCCUPATIONS IN ME IS TO ENCOURAGE MODERATION ON PART OF PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP AND TO GIVE THEM MORE "RESPONSIBILITY", ADDING THAT THIS WAS BEST WAY TO ENSURE CESSATION OF PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM. SAUVAGNARGUES DEFINED TWO MAIN PRINCIPLES OF FRENCH ME POLICY AS (A) SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINIANS, AND

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R 241605Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 958

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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USUN NEW YORK 2722

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** LIBERATION FRONTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PEACE PLANS, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 7  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FR FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS LEBENON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, FR, LE, XF, (SAUVAGNARGUES), (ARAFAT, YASSER)  
**To:** STATE PARIS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005